

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-mentioned application is hereby requested in view of the above amendments and remarks which follow. Claims 12-21 pend in this application. Applicants appreciate the thorough examination by the Examiner, and in the recognition of patentable subject matter, namely in objected to claim 19.

The Examiner also rejected pending claims 12-14, 16, 18, and 20-21 on grounds of anticipation under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) by US 3,149,772 (*Olsson*). Applicants have amended claim 12 such that it now relates to a flexible container for containing a liquid, including two overlaying walls of flexible material welded or bonded along a peripheral seam so as to define an inner sealed volume. The container comprises an outwardly protruding spout and an outflow channel connecting the spout with the inner sealed volume of the container, wherein one or several obstacles formed by welding or bonding together a portion of said two overlaying walls is or are located in the inner sealed volume substantially opposite and in the vicinity of the outflow channel thereby leaving open at least one restricted passage between the inner sealed volume and the outflow channel. The obstacle or obstacles extend between two ends and creating two folds, one extending from each of said ends, directed substantially transversally with respect to said obstacles and traversing the peripheral seam. The position of the one or several obstacles relative to the spout and the peripheral seam being such that a portion of the overlying walls including the spout and bounded by the obstacle or the obstacles and by the folds deflects or arches when liquid is present in the inner sealed volume.

Applicants believe that claim 12 as amended is novel and non-obvious over the cited prior art in particular in *Olsson*, since *Olsson* does not disclose, *inter alia*, the features of two folds created either side of the obstacle extending from opposite ends of the obstacle and traversing the peripheral seam. This allows not only very effective self-sealing but at the same time provides a good flow of liquid once the canals either side of the spout are opened. In *Olsson*, the long single entry canal has the drawback of creating a large flow resistance even when opened.

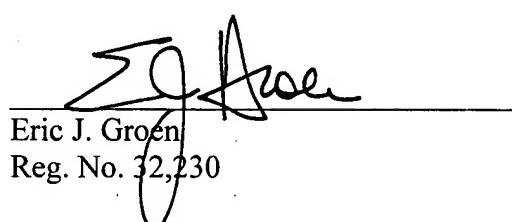
Therefore, claim 12 is neither anticipated by US 3,149,772 (*Olsson*), nor obvious in view of *Olsson's* teachings. Claims 13 to 21, which relate to further advantageous features, are

directly or indirectly dependant on claim 12 and should thus also be allowable without us having to discuss the merits of these claims.

As it relates to new claims 22-29, claim 22 is claim 19 re-written in independent format, including intervening claim 18. New dependent claims 23-29 substantially relate to present claims 13-17 and 20-21. As the examiner indicated that 19 was objected to, and as Applicants have incorporated claims 12, 18 and 19 into new claim 22, Applicants believe that claims 22-29 stand in condition for allowance.

For all the above mentioned amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that claims 12-29 stand in condition for allowance and respectfully request early passage thereof.

Respectfully submitted,
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